

Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 8:32 PM  
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Revelation 5

"And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seal; for you were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth!' (Revelation 5:9-10)

Last week, we began our study of the third of the three main sections of the book of the Revelation, with chapter 4, where John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, hears and sees, and is told to write about, some amazing things, things about which no man has ever seen or heard, or written about in such detail, in all of history! Things that were (and are) to take place sometime in the future, after the "things that are," referring to things about the "seven churches," and the church age in general, that continue to occur in our day, and which we believe will end with the "rapture of the church"!

The scene shifts dramatically in Revelation 4 from matters concerning the church on earth, whose "head" is Christ, to the dramatic scene of events in heaven, with God, the Father, on the throne! As we discussed last week, chapters 4 and 5 provide the introduction and background for and anticipate what Walvoord describes as the "tremendous sweep of prophetic events that are predicted in the rest of the book of Revelation!" Things to come!

It all began, in Revelation 4:1, with John suddenly, "in the Spirit," seeing a door "standing open in heaven...and One sitting on the throne"! The very "command center" of the universe! Then a voice telling him to "come up and be shown what must take place after these things"! The scene revealed (as MacArthur describes it) "the splendid magnificence of the shining beauty of God's glory, but also of His blazing wrath ready to be poured out on a rebellious world"! There was a rainbow, and flashes of lightning and sounds of thunder, with twenty-four elders, in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads, sitting on twenty-four smaller thrones around the throne of God. And, before the throne, a "sea of glass, like crystal," and in the center and around the throne, "four living creatures (Cherubim) giving glory and honor to Him who sits on the throne and lives forever and ever"! With the twenty-four elders "falling down before Him and worshipping Him, casting their crowns before the throne," and saying, "Worthy are You, our Lord, and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed and were created!"

The scene continues in Revelation 5 as John sees "in the right hand of Him who sits on the throne, a scroll...sealed up with seven seals," and then an angel "proclaiming, in a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seal'?" (In John's day, people used a seal to keep the contents of important documents secret, unchangeable, and free from tampering until some authoritative person broke the seal and unveiled the contents! And here, in Revelation 5, it represents the "title deed" to the earth, the inheritance God gave to His Son, and records how Christ will regain His rightful inheritance and redeem the world now being ruled by Satan!)

Revelation 5:3 says that "no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it"! Which causes John to "weep," until one of the elders assures him that "the Lion of Judah, the Root of David," has "overcome" and is able to do it!

Jeremiah, the prophet, wrote in Jeremiah 23:5-6, "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will be king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land..." And, in 33:15-15, "In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth! In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety!"

But He (Jesus) couldn't be the "Lion of Judah," or the "King of Glory," in His first advent, unless He was first the Lamb of God! And so, He came as the "Lamb," meek and lowly, rejected by "His people," and submissive to a sacrificial death on the cross, as the substitute, the "propitiation" for our sin!

And what does John see (as revealed in Revelation 5:6) but "the Lamb standing in the center of the throne, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits, sent out into all the earth" (picturing strength and majesty) and, by "taking the scroll" symbolizing the transfer of authority from the Father to the Son, who would reveal the future and, in His second advent, rule and execute judgment upon the world! (Remember John 5:22, 28, when Jesus told His disciples, much to their chagrin, that "the Father gave Him the authority to execute judgment, because He is Son of Man"!)

Interestingly, the prophet Ezekiel had a similar experience when he was called to deliver a message of judgment to the rebellious children of Israel! He too saw the heavens opened and a hand extended to him, with a scroll on which, when opened and spread before him, revealed "lamentations, mourning, and woe"! Likewise, Daniel (in Daniel 12) prophesied about "a time of distress" that was coming, "such as has never occurred, but that those found written in the book would be rescued (speaking of the Great Tribulation period coming)"! But when he inquired about these events, he was told that the words were concealed and sealed up until the end time"!

And now (in Revelation 5), the revelation of the "end time," in the heavenly vision to John (in Revelation 5) had arrived, and the seven seals were ready to be broken!

What a response, in Revelation 5:8 (to His taking the scroll) as the "four living creatures and the twenty-four elders...fell down before the Lamb...and sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break the seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation! You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth!" Wow!

MacArthur notes that the appearance of the Lamb as He takes the scroll causes praise to break out, spontaneously, from everywhere in the universe with "those in the know" realizing that the long-anticipated defeat of sin, death, and Satan is about to be accomplished!

- Christ will return to earth in triumph and establish His glorious millennial kingdom!
- The curse will be reversed!
- The believing remnant of Israel will be saved!
- And the church will be granted the privilege of reigning with Christ!

It's also noted that the same worship directed to the Father, in Revelation 4:10, is now directed to the Son, in 5:9-10, offering convincing proof of Christ's deity, since only God is to be worshiped! And that these passages record heavenly songs that focus on two great works of God: creation and redemption! All of which should cause every creature in heaven and earth to give praise to God! Which it does in Revelation 5:13, and in its closing song (picturing a glorious event which will one day take place)!

Philippians 2:8-11 reads (speaking of Christ): "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. For this reason, also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name, which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!"

The Psalm ends, appropriately, with the words: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" (Psalm 150:6)

And our text ends with the word: "Amen!" Let it be!

Lowell